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Boozman Bulletin: Giving Thanks

This week we will gather with our family and friends to give thanks. There is much to be thankful for this year. My wife Cathy and I welcomed our first granddaughter, Daisy. We couldn't be happier to share this holiday with our growing family. I hope you too will be celebrating with family and friends.

It's important to remember those people who aren't as fortunate. For children in foster care, celebrating this holiday surrounded by loved ones is just a dream. An estimated 3,500 children are currently in the Arkansas foster care system.

We recognize November as National Adoption Month to help raise awareness for children in need of a loving home. Few things in life are more important than working to ensure that all children grow up in a safe, healthy home.

I am encouraged by the great work being done. We are blessed in Arkansas to have outstanding advocates of adoption and people who are champions for children who need a family. Over the past several years, Arkansans have been recognized in this effort by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute which coordinates the Angels in Adoption program. This program honors outstanding individuals for their dedication and commitment to providing the protection, permanency, safety and love of a family. These are the men and women who selflessly dedicate their time for the good of our children who are in need of a loving home.

For a child, the significance of a loving, supportive home can never be understated. Families across the state are committed to sharing their love with children who need permanent homes. With more than 600 adoptions last year in Arkansas, I am proud to say that our state is committed to making this a reality. This Thanksgiving, as we count our blessings and enjoy the holiday with our families, remember the support of loved ones is the cornerstone of prosperity. Let us recognize this importance on our lives and keep the

children who will go without permanent homes this year in our hearts.

Quick Takes:

Honoring our Veterans: We recently recognized the service and sacrifice of our veterans with ceremonies and parades marking Veterans Day. We are grateful for their efforts to protect us and the interests of our country. I shared my thoughts on that in this [video message](#). As a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I am working with my colleagues to provide our men and women who wear our nation's uniform with the [benefits they deserve](#). In a recent edition of [The Hill](#), I highlighted the need for bipartisan support for those who fought for us.

We are also reminded of the men and women who have laid down their lives for our country like Army SGT Jason Swindle who was killed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. We celebrated his [life and honored his service and sacrifice on the Senate Floor](#).

From the Mailbag: In this edition of ["From the Mailbag"](#) we talk about the importance of providing Arkansas farmers and ranchers with the certainty of a farm bill and what needs to be included to get my support. We also discuss drought relief and the need to eliminate the renewable fuel standard.

Talk Business Interview: We sat down with Roby Brock of *Talk Business* for an Internet-televised interview based on questions solicited from Arkansans via email and social media. We had a wide range of questions from such topics as the farm bill, ethanol subsidies, the *Veterans Jobs Corp Act*, the fiscal cliff, and postal reform. You can [watch the interview here](#).

Benghazi Questions: The American people are rightfully asking questions about the attack on our diplomatic offices in Benghazi, Libya on September 11th that claimed the lives of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three CIA security personnel. Senate and House committee members are seeking answers and are awaiting testimony of many government officials as to what happened and how this violence could have been avoided. [We need to get to the bottom of this and ensure it does not happen again.](#)

Fighting for Arkansas Sportsmen: Arkansans are heading out to the stands and the blinds to participate in the time-honored tradition of hunting. Hunters and anglers have a tremendous impact on our state economy. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I'm working to protect and preserve our natural treasures so future generations can participate in these traditions. [Read what we are doing in this column.](#)

Fiscal Cliff: Washington needs to set spending priorities. The Senate has failed to pass a budget resolution in three and a half years and this complicates our need to rein in

spending. A recent report by Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn highlighted just a few examples of [Washington's wasteful spending](#). It provides a starting point for areas where we can cut spending as required by the super committee's failure to reach an agreement. [If we can't eliminate the waste and instead allow the across-the-board cuts to go through, it will have a drastic impact on our military's ability to protect us.](#) We must curb spending in a way that does not put our servicemen and women at risk.

Mobile Office: Members of my staff will be in Mountain View for a Mobile Office event on Wednesday, December 5th. This is a great opportunity for Arkansans to get help and to speak one-on-one with my staff about their questions pertaining to the federal government. Please join my staff from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Mountain View Senior Center at 201 School Ave on December 5th if you need help solving problems involving the federal government or to express your thoughts about legislative issues.

On the Radio: I talked with KASU in Jonesboro recently about a wide range of topics Congress should concentrate on in the lame duck session. [You can listen to the interview here.](#)

Presidential Inauguration Tickets: The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has launched the [official website](#) and the first ever [Facebook page](#) for the upcoming presidential inauguration. If you are interested in attending this event and would like to request tickets through our office, then please [click here](#).

